

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 09356 170400Z

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SUBJ: PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW AMBASSADOR NEWSOM

1. PRESTIGIOUS AND INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE TEMPO
PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM JULY 17.
QUESTIONS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON AMERICA'S SELF IMAGE
FOLLOWING VIETNAM AND WATERGATE, AMERICA'S IMAGE IN OTHER
COUNTRIES AND RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA.

2. IN A WARM INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERVIEW, TEMPO
DESCRIBED U.S. POSITION IN INDONESIA OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS
AS SELF-EFFACING, POINTING TO POST MAGAZINE TITIAN ARTICLES
AS BEING RELEVANT TO AND OFTEN ABOUT INDONESIA AND TO BINATIONAL
CENTER PROGRAMS THAT CENTER NOT JUST ON AMERICA. ARTICLE
NOTES EMBASSY MORE OUTGOING DURING BICENTENNIAL AND LISTS
ACTIVITIES WELL AS WARM RESPONSE INDONESIAN PRESS.

3. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:
Q: WOULD CELEBRATION 200 YEARS INDEPENDENCE BE AS
CHEERFUL IF VIETNAM WAR OR WATERGATE PROBLEM STILL VISIBLE
ON AMERICAN SCENE?

A: I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S. VIETNAM HAS
RECEDED INTO THE BACKGROUND. WATERGATE HAS SUBSIDED. I

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 JAKART 09356 170400Z

THINK THE BICENTENNIAL WAS PROBABLY MORE SERIOUS PRECISE-

LY BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS. BUT THE MOOD IN GENERAL IS STILL A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THE U.S. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SENSE OF PRIDE IS STRENGTHENED BY THE FACT THAT WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE APPEARED, WE AS A NATION HAVE MAINTAINED OUR INTEGRITY, WE HAVE CONTINUED RESPECTING ONE ANOTHER, WE HAVE OVERCOME, OR AT LEAST PASSED, THE TRACES OF THE WOUNDS INFLICTED.

THERE'S A QUIET PRIDE IN WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS ABROAD?

A: I THINK MOST AMERICANS ARE PUZZLED BY AND SOME- TIMES ANGRY WITH THE IMPRESSION THEY GET THAT TO MANY PEOPLE ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE U.S. IS SEEN AS CRIMINAL NUMBER ONE. MANY AMERICANS FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS SO.....

Q: IS THERE NO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND IT?

A: OH YES, I THINK THERE IS. BUT WHEN I GO HOME AND EXPLAIN THE ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE ABROAD I FIND THAT IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR OUR PEOPLE TO PLACE THEMSELVES IN THE POSITION OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE THIRD WORLD.

Q: HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?

A: I SHOULD FIRST SAY THAT, LIKE THEM, I DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE EXISTING U.S. IMAGE WITH MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE IS ACCURATE. BUT I TRY TO EXPLAIN THAT MOST COUNTRIES, CALLED DEVELOPING, . . . BECAME INDEPENDENT AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. THEY SENSE THAT THEY HAVE TIES WITH FORMER COLONIZED COUNTRIES. THEY SEE THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND THEY FEEL THAT THEY ARE DISADVANTAGED, AND THESE ARE POLITICAL AND EMOTIONAL FACTORS THAT MUST BE ADMITTED BY THE LEADERS OF EVERY DEVELOPING COUNTRY. WE ARE AN ADVANCED AND RICH COUNTRY AND SOME OF THE POSITIONS WE HAVE ASSUMED ARE THE MANIFESTATIONS OF OUR OWN SITUATION ...

Q: THE U.S. IS OFTEN CRITICIZED FOR SIDING WITH THE COUNTRIES WHICH CURB THE RIGHTS OF THEIR CITIZENS -- EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN POINT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO CRITICIZED THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FOR SURPRESSING THOSE RIGHTS. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT?

A: MANY AMERICANS FEEL THAT THE NEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD HAVE DOUBLE STANDARDS. CRITICISM IS LEVELLED AGAINST US, AND PERHAPS AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JAKART 09356 170400Z

FRIENDLY WITH US, RATHER THAN AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES, FOR INSTANCE CUBA, WHERE THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

Q: IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS ... REALLY UNIVERSAL?

A: WE HIGHLY RESPECT INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY, THE RIGHT TO HAVE OPINIONS, TO LIVE, BE FREE AND SEEK HAPPINESS. BUT WE ... DON'T ASSUME THAT OUR SYSTEM WILL AUTOMATICALLY WORK EVERYWHERE. BUT WE DO REACT STRONGLY TO ATTACKS ON

THE U.S. AND ON SOME OF OUR ATTITUDES WHEN THERE ARE PRACTICALLY NO STATEMENTS WHATEVER ON THE ACTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY ABOUT MOYNIHAN ... BUT I THINK THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW THAT HE SPOKE ON BEHALF OF VERY MANY AMERICANS WHO HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DISPLEASED WITH WHAT THEY REGARD AS DOUBLE STANDARDS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE U.N. AND THE "TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY" WHICH IS ALLEGEDLY THERE?

A: I THINK WE FEEL THAT PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SUBORDINATED TO POLITICS. AND WE REGRET WHAT SOMETIMES APPEARS AS AUTOMATIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER GROUPS IN THE U.N. WE DON'T THINK THIS HAS TO BE SO, AND I THINK WE HAVE SEEN THAT IN SOME SPECIAL SESSIONS ON THE ECONOMY THAT THIS OUGHT NOT TO BE SO. WE WOULD LIKE THE PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SUBSTANCE AND VALUE AND NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF WHO IS FOR AND WHO IS AGAINST.

Q: ABOUT RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA. IS IT TRUE THAT OF LATE INVESTMENT INTEREST IS SUBSIDING?

A: I THINK THE SLACKENING IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT MAY BE RELATED TO THE ATMOSPHERE, BUT THIS IS QUITE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF AVAILABILITY OF MONEY IN THE WORLD IN GENERAL. NOW WE SEE THAT THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION IS IMPROVING AND THAT INVESTMENT INTERESTS ARE GROWING. IT ISN'T A NEW THING FOR LEADERS OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY TO HAVE TO RECONCILE DOMESTIC NEEDS -- FOR A GREATER ROLE FOR THEIR PEOPLE, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY -- WITH A CONTINUING FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. INDONESIA IS NOT ALONE IN WEIGHING THE FACTORS. SO I THINK SERIOUS INVESTORS RECOGNIZE THIS AND ARE STILL WILLING TO COME AND TALK WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN INDONESIA. NO INVESTOR WHO IS HERE IS PREPARING TO LEAVE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 JAKART 09356 170400Z

Q: WHAT GENERALLY ARE THE COMPLAINTS OF THE AMERICAN INVESTORS? PROCEDURES? THE BUREAUCRACY?

A: THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET INVESTED HERE RAISE A QUESTION. THE QUESTION THEY WANT TO GET AN ANSWER TO FROM THE AUTHORITIES IN INDONESIA IS THIS: HOW STRONG IS WHATEVER AGREEMENT I MAKE HERE; CAN I BE ASSURED THAT THE SITUATION WE JOINTLY AGREE ON WILL BE FIRM FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, OR WILL I BE FACED WITH UNEXPECTED CHANGES? I THINK MANY SERIOUS INVESTORS ARE WILLING TO COME HERE AND ACCEPT THE CONDITION OF INDONESIANIZATION, THE CONDITION OF TRAINING, JUSTICE FOR THE INDONESIAN SIDE, BUT THEY WANT TO BE SURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENT THEY FINALLY AGREE ON WILL NOT BE CHANGED THE NEXT DAY.

Q: HAS SUCH A CHANGE EVER HAPPENED?

A: THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS.

THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY HERE FACE THE USUAL PROBLEMS FOUND
IN ANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY. ENDUSINFO.
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